J. AND N. HAMLIN.

FEBRUARY 29, 1840. Laid on the table.

Mr. Giddings, from the Committee of Claims, made the following

REPORT:

The Committee of Claims, to whom was referred the petition of J. and N. Hamlin, report:

That the petitioners purchased of the United States, and of George Hamlin, who held the same by patent from the United States, certain lands mentioned and described in said petition, and situate in township No. 3, range

No. 2 south and east, in the Territory of Florida.

That, after the purchase of said lands, they proceeded to make large and valuable improvements thereon: that after the making of said improvements, one Forbes presented a claim for said lands, which he held under the Spanish Government, and obtained a decree for the same, before the Supreme Court of the United States. The claimants now ask a return of the purchase-money, and interest, together with a compensation for the loss they have sustained by the making of said improvements, and the damages they are liable to pay to their several grantees to whom they have conveyed a part of said lands.

The petitioners are entitled, under the provisions of the act of Congress of the 12th January, 1825, to a return of the purchase-money, on making

the proper proof to the Secretary of the Treasury.

As to the interest and damages asked by the petitioners, the committee would remark, that Government has not heretofore allowed claims of this kind. Equal justice should be dealt out to all the citizens of our Government; it would be manifest partiality to allow compensation to the petitioners, while it is refused to others claiming under similar circumstances. The committee, therefore, recommend to the House, for adoption, the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Committee of Claims be discharged from the further consideration of the claim of J. and N. Hamlin; and that the same be referred to the Secretary of the 'Treasury, to be disposed of according to the act of the 12th January, 1825.

Blair & Rives, printers.

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Report No. 158

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Figure 29, 1840.

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